

Washington State Patrol

Media Release

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WSP Response to Disaster Area

The Washington State Patrol has mobilized its state wide Rapid Deployment Force in response to a call for help from Skagit County Sheriff Rick Grimstead with evacuations for the flood areas of Skagit County.

The WSP has directed 50 troopers from across the state, along with command staff to assist in the evacuation of flood victims and road closures. The request for help came last night from Skagit County Officials as flood waters continued to rise. The WSP activated its Rapid Deployment Force and had specially trained troopers working the area within 12 hours.

The State Patrol has been utilized in assisting local, county and federal agencies on numerous occasions in many different disasters. In 1999, the Washington State Patrol established a state wide program in anticipation of WTO and originally called this unit CDAT, short for Civil Disturbance Action Team.

After several years the program was expanded to cover a multitude of areas such as natural disasters, critical infrastructure protection and civil disturbances'. The program now called Rapid Deployment Force is modeled after a multi agency New Jersey task force as a force multiplier in responding to large scale disasters.

The State Patrol has 4 teams located across the state. Teams in Seattle, Tacoma, Everett and Spokane have received hours of additional training and work closely with our Homeland Security Division. Teams can be activated in a moments notice and be deployed to assist in what ever capacity is determined necessary.

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